

1 1. In a computer system having a video display device, the video
2 display device having a screen, a method comprising:

3 providing a plurality of controls on the screen of the video display device;
4 identifying a control group, the control group being comprised of at least
5 two controls associated in a data structure;
6 representing the control group with a single status indicator in the data
7 structure; and
8 directing the activation of the controls of the control group by storing an
9 active value in the single status indicator.

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11 2. In a computer system having a video display device, the video
12 display device having a screen and the computer system including a cursor which
13 is displayed on the screen, a method comprising:

14 providing a plurality of controls on the screen of the video display device;
15 identifying a control group, the control group being comprised of at least
16 two controls associated in a data structure;
17 representing the control group with a single status indicator in the data
18 structure;
19 directing the activation of the controls of the control group by storing an
20 active value in the single status indicator;

21 identifying a location on the screen that the cursor points to; and
22 for each control of the control group, identifying a control position, the
23 control position defining a location on the screen for the activated control,
24 determining a control distance, the control distance defining a control connecting
25 path which connects the identified location with the control position, calculating a

1 control angle, the control angle being an angle formed between the control
2 connecting path and a last direction of cursor movement path, and calculating a
3 weighted distance.

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5 3. An apparatus for activating and deactivating a control grouping, the
6 control grouping being comprised of at least two controls and being displayed on a
7 screen of a video display device of a computer system, the apparatus including:

8 a memory formed within the computer system; and

9 a control grouping identifier contained within the memory, wherein the
10 control grouping identifier has an active state and an inactive state and wherein the
11 control grouping identifier represents the controls of the control grouping.

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13 4. An apparatus for activating and deactivating a control grouping, the
14 control grouping being comprised of at least two controls and being displayed on a
15 screen of a video display device of a computer system, the apparatus including:

16 a memory formed within the computer system; and

17 a control grouping identifier contained within the memory, wherein the
18 control grouping identifier has an active state and an inactive state and wherein the
19 control grouping identifier is a bit of a control word that represents the controls of
20 the control grouping.

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22 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising directing the activation of
23 individual controls by storing an active value in a status indicator for each control.
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1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising directing the deactivation
2 of the controls of the control group by masking the active value in the single status
3 indicator.

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5 7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
6 directing the deactivation of the controls of the control group by masking
7 the active value in the single status indicator; and
8 directing the activation of the controls of the control group by storing an
9 active value in a status indicator for each control.

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11 8. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the apparatus further includes an
12 identifier for an individual control contained within the memory, and wherein the
13 identifier for the individual control has an active state and an inactive state.